

# ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES  
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES  
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS  
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

Our Ref. GB/AS/1568/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 22 December 2017

H. E. Mr Ahmad Jalali  
Permanent Delegation of the Islamic Republic of  
Iran to UNESCO  
Maison de l'UNESCO  
1, rue Miollis  
75732 Paris CCEDEX 15

World Heritage List 2018  
**Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region (Iran) –  
Interim report and additional information request**

Dear Sir,

As prescribed by the revised Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention and its Annex 6, the Advisory Bodies have been requested to submit a short interim report for each nomination by 31 January 2018. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation process.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to the "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region" was carried out by Assaad Seif (Lebanon) from 25 to 30 September 2017. The mission expert highly appreciated the availabilities and support provided by the experts in your country for the organization and implementation of the mission.

On 28 September 2017, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the serial approach, risks and factors affecting the property, protection, management and monitoring. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 03 November 2017 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

At the end of November 2017, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2018. The additional information, together with mission and desk review reports were carefully examined by the Panel members. This process will conclude in March 2018.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on Thursday 23 November 2017 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. During the final part of the ICOMOS Panel meeting that followed, the ICOMOS Panel has identified areas where it considers that further information is needed.

While the ICOMOS Panel considered that the "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region" might have the potential to meet the requirements for Outstanding Universal Value, this has not yet been demonstrated.

Therefore, we would be pleased if the State Party could consider the following points:

#### **Commencement / early expansion of Sassanid Empire**

The ICOMOS Panel considered that the serial property "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region" might have potential to constitute an exceptional testimony of the commencement and establishment of power in the early years of the Sassanid Empire under Ardashir and his son Shapur I respectively. However, the ICOMOS Panel did neither consider that the series presented could adequately project the complete time range of the Sassanid Empire beyond its early commencement, nor could all serial components proposed meaningfully contribute to the potential exceptional testimony in relation to the early Sassanid years.

Therefore, the ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could consider to refocus the justification of Outstanding Universal Value on the commencement and early expansion / establishment of power of the Sassanian Empire (in relation to criterion (iii)) and subsequently withdraw the Sarvestan Monument component from the serial nomination.

#### **Archaeological landscape representation**

The ICOMOS Panel further expressed appreciation for the notion of an archaeological landscape and the interaction between the natural topography and the early Sassanid architectural and artistic production, as proposed under criterion (v). However, the Panel considered that the current boundaries of the serial components are too tightly drawn and do not include the landscape surrounding the architectural and archaeological features. As the interaction of both, natural topography and early Sassanid architectural and artistic response is seen by the ICOMOS Panel as a potential attribute of Outstanding Universal Value, it is essential that the natural topography becomes part of the property.

In this regard, the ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could consider to combine the five serial components in the Firuzabad area to one site component within one shared boundary as well as combining the two serial components in Bishapur to become a second site component. The nomination would remain serial but have only two site components, one in Firuzabad and another in Bishapur.

#### **State of conservation and management of the site**

The ICOMOS Panel expressed its concern about the state of conservation and current use of some archaeological and architectural elements within the remaining site components. It would therefore be helpful if the State Party could provide updated information on the finalization of an integrated conservation and management plan, including sections on risk preparedness and disaster response, as well as its current policies regarding the permissibility of agricultural practices in Ardashir Khurreh.

We look forward to your responses to these points, which will be of great help in our evaluation process.

We would be grateful if you could provide ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre with the above information by **28 February 2018 at the latest**, the deadline set out in paragraph 148 of the Operational Guidelines for supplementary information on nominations to be received. Please note that any information submitted after this date will not be considered by ICOMOS in its evaluation for the World Heritage Committee. It should be noted, however, that while ICOMOS will carefully consider any supplementary information submitted, it cannot properly evaluate a completely revised nomination or large amounts of new information submitted at the last minute. So we request to keep your response concise and respond only to the above requests.

We thank you for your support of the World Heritage Convention and the evaluation process.

Yours faithfully,



Gwenaëlle Bourdin  
Director  
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

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UNESCO World Heritage Centre